

September 29, 1950

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Extension Conference on Children and Youth
December 8-13, 1950
A Progress Report

With the Midcentury White House Conference on children and youth now only a couple of months away, plans for the auxiliary extension conference are beginning to take shape.

Last June during National 4-H Club Camp we took advantage of the presence of the 4-H Club leaders and other extension workers to get together and discuss the kind of agenda that would prove most useful. A program was recommended which would use the first 2 days (December 8 and 9) for the discussion of administrative and supervisory problems that would arise when the Extension Service began to help people carry out the recommendations of the White House Conference.

The administrative and supervisory problems they envisioned were cited as interagency relations, the personnel to do the work when there is no specialist in child development and family life, the bringing of conference recommendations to every member of the staff, interstate cooperation on publications, and over-all plans for implementation of the White House Conference recommendations.

The committee that developed these suggestions included Directors Brown of Georgia and Hoffman of Indiana; Home Demonstration Leader Miss Brumbaugh of Oklahoma; 4-H Club Leaders Merchant of Vermont, Lennox of New York, Monosmith of Mississippi, Miss Troth of Indiana, Miss Emerson of Maryland; and Mrs. Irene Miracle, specialist in family life, of Arkansas; as well as the Washington staff members serving on the conference committee.

The work sessions for the last 3 days were developed a little further by this group. They suggested that the plans take into account both rural and urban needs, that they emphasize the family approach to extension programs, and integrate the farm and home planning work with the White House Conference suggestions. The opportunity which this activity might offer in giving extension workers more participation in community organizations might also be explored as a function of these work groups.

The main problem now is invitations. As the conference has to be held to a workable size, invitations are at a premium. We have been unable to get invitations for many extension workers who ought to be here taking part. There seems to be no remedy for this, but we are still working overtime to get invitations for all the State people who want to come. However, at the extension conference all extension workers will be welcome, and we hope that those who are unable to get

invitations to participate in the White House Conference will attend the extension conference and help plan for a maximum implementation of the conference findings.

The program for the extension meeting is now being developed by a committee under the cochairmanship of Mrs. Lydia A. Lynde and E. W. Aiton. Any suggestions will be appreciated.

We have another staff committee working on reports of the meeting. What sort of report would be most helpful? Some advance thinking on this score may result in ironing out mechanical difficulties and also bring forward new ideas on presentation of this material to make it significant to all extension workers.

Federal Conference

Planning Committee: Mrs. Lydia A. Lynde, Cochairman
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Elin L. Anderson
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